

# MARKET RABBIT DIVISION



Entry Deadline -----	January 15
Entry Fee-----	\$10.00
Delivery, Weighing/Sifting/Classify -----	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday, March 11
Register for Rabbit Showmanship Competition -----	10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Monday, March 11
Judging-----	8:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 12
Load Out -----	Sunday, March 17

## MARKET RABBIT DIVISION RULES

*Notice to Exhibitors: All sifted rabbits must be removed from the Showgrounds immediately after sifting. All others must be consigned by the exhibitor and or buyer to the processing plant, individual, etc. assigned by the Show Management. Violation of this rule will result in exhibitor being barred from future shows.*

**Validation of Market Rabbits** will take place **Saturday, February 9th 2019 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the RGVLS Show Grounds in Mercedes.** One tattoo will be used for all validated market rabbits and will be done so by the Market Rabbit Committee during this day and time. **The exhibitor may validate as many market rabbits as they like.** Major shows like Houston, San Antonio, & Fort Worth have done this validation process for years.

One tattoo will be used for all validated market rabbits, **if a different tattoo shows up in the market rabbit pen during the 2019 show, the whole pen will be disqualified.** The rules and regulations will be handed to every exhibitor during validation that will include information on the rules, proper carrying cages, metal feeders, water bottles, and number of market pen rabbits allowed to bring to the sift and the show; these rules and regulations must be signed by the exhibitor and returned back to a committee member.

- 1 Each exhibitor must be a member of a 4-H Club or FFA Chapter and enrolled in elementary, secondary or home school in Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, or Willacy County and in their respective FFA Chapter or 4-H Club from November 1, 2018 thru the Show period.
2. FFA and 4-H exhibitors must be in third grade or nine years old but under twenty as of January 1, 2019.

3. Rabbits must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor as of February 9, 2019, and must be continuously fed and cared for by the exhibitor as a project under the supervision of an AST, CEA or 4-H Club manager.
4. An exhibitor can enter only one pen. The pen is to consist of three rabbits, all the same breed or they will be sifted. **DO NOT BRING 4 RABBITS TO THE SHOW AND NOT TWO SEPARATE BREEDS. FOR EXAMPLE (2 CALIFORNIANS AND 1 CROSS BREED THEN CALL THE SET CROSS BREED.** Choose the three you want to enter before you get to the showgrounds. Please bring the 3 rabbits in wire carrying cage with lifted wire bottom. No Laundry baskets, dog/cat carriers, card board boxes or milk crates. Rabbits must be presentable to the judge and rabbit committee at the time of sift. Animals must be clean and dry or the pen of rabbits will be sifted.
5. Rabbits will be weighed on official show scales at time of entry.
6. Rabbits will be sifted in accordance with the current American Rabbit Breeder Association's (ARBA) Standard of Perfection. Defects include, but are not limited to:
  - A. Must weigh at least 3 ½ pounds but no more than 5 ½ pounds at the sifting weigh-in. If any one rabbit in the pen weighs less than 3 ½ pounds or more than 5 ½ pounds, the entire pen will be sifted.
  - B. Must be marketable meat and pelt (fur) quality.
  - C. Must not be over 70 days old at time of sifting.
  - D. Must be free of the following defects:
    - (1) Cysts, ruptures or tumors
    - (2) Cold or snuffles
    - (3) Abscesses (hocks or elsewhere)
    - (4) Matted eyelids
    - (5) Blindness in either or both eyes
    - (6) Mange
    - (7) Mites (ear or body)
    - (8) Fleas
    - (9) Malocclusion
    - (10) Vent Diseases
    - (11) Missing toes or missing complete toenail.
    - (12) Bob tail or broken tail
  - E. If anyone rabbit in the pen is disqualified, the entire pen will be sifted.
7. Identification card during sift with pen number will be color coded as per breed, color, and must follow exhibitor to the end of the sift table where the judge will place.
8. Judge will have final say if the animal is show worthy or will be sifted.
9. A pen of rabbits, which in the opinion of the sifter, does not meet ARBA Breed Standards of the breed in which it is entered, will be moved to the proper breed by the sifter.
10. After rabbits have been accepted by the Show, no exchange of animals may be made. To do so will disqualify the exhibitor.
11. Weighing/Sifting/Classifying of Market Rabbits – Only one parent or Ag Teacher/4-H Club Manager will be allowed in the rabbit area during the sift for a 15 minute time frame to help the exhibitor with unloading of rabbits. The exhibitor can hang their flip top metal rabbit feeders, 32 oz. water bottles and give rabbits water during this time. Feeding can be done after the sift is over. Signage,

show supplies and show boxes can be delivered after sifting is completed. Each exhibitor must identify the breed of their rabbits at the time of check-in /sift.

Only FLIP TOP METAL RABBIT FEEDERS (through the cage type and big enough to hold enough feed for 3 rabbits each day) and one or two 32 ounce or larger bottle type waterier (so rabbits will have enough water during warm weather). No crocks or bowls allowed.

Each exhibitor will be responsible for feeding and watering their rabbits each day until rabbits are loaded out at the end of the Show. Failure to do so may disqualify the exhibitor (at the Boards discretion) from showing next year.

The Rabbit area will be open from 9:00 a.m. till 9:00 p.m. each day. RABBITS MUST HAVE WATER AT ALL TIMES. THEY MUST BE FED BY 7:00 P.M. EACH DAY. THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.

12. The Livestock Show will not be responsible for any rabbits that get sick or die while on exhibit or in case of fire.

**13.No oils, polishes, powders, wipes or other products may be used which would cosmetically alter the rabbit's naturally groomed appearance at sifting or at the show table.**

14. Rabbits will be judged in accordance with American Rabbit Breeders' Association's (ARBA) Standard and Guide for Judging Meat Classes. Judges will additionally refer to the appropriate Breed Standards, as they deem necessary.

15. The four judging factors are:

A. **MEAT TYPE** is worth 40%. Look for fryers that are compact, short and well filled out with rounded solid flesh. Protruding hips, pin bones, back bones (spines), etc. are faults. Look for wide, deep loins, thickness of the hindquarters and well-developed shoulders. Hindquarters are most important. Loin is next and shoulders are third in importance.

B. **CONDITION** is worth 30%. All three rabbits in the pen should be in prime condition.

C. **UNIFORMITY** is worth 20%. The pen must reflect uniformity of weight, size, appearance, condition, meat type and fur.

D. **FUR** is worth 10%

16. General public and spectators will not be allowed to handle any exhibitor's rabbit at any time during the week of the show. Only the exhibitor, FFA Leader, 4-H Project Leader or parent will be allowed to handle their own individual, club, or chapter's rabbit projects at any time during the week of the show.

17. Exhibitors will be required to display their rabbits at the show tables as directed by the judge. Any exhibitor who places in their class must remain in the rabbit barn until advised to leave. Failure to remain in the area will result in forfeiture of any further placing.

**18.No locks will be permitted on cages after judging takes place. Cages may be locked until judging. Any locks found on cages after judging will be cut off. Nothing shall be displayed or attached to or below the rabbit cages other than pen assignment signage attached by the rabbit committee. Nothing should be placed in empty cages.**

19. Delivery of rabbits to buyer or his agents will be made on Sunday, March 17. Feeders and Water bottles may be removed after load out.

## **BREEDS**

Each breed will have classes as follows: 1 - 20 pens = 1 class; 21 - 40 pens = 2 classes; 41 - 60 pens = 3 classes; 61 - 80 pens = 4 classes. First place and second place of each class will compete for Breed Champion and Reserve Breed Champion. First place pen of rabbits in each class will compete

for Breed Champion. The second place winner in the class that produced the Breed Champion will compete with the remaining first place class winners for Reserve Breed Champion. Ribbons and premiums will be awarded in each class as indicated under "Premium Section".

The New Zealand classes will now include New Zealand White, New Zealand Black, New Zealand Broken, and New Zealand Red. Each individual New Zealand breed will have its own class and once the first and second place from each class is selected, then an overall New Zealand Breed Champion and Reserve Breed Champion will be selected to compete with the remaining breeds, (Californian and OPB/Crossbreeds) Then all breed and reserve breed champions will compete for the Grand and Reserve Grand Champion of the show. The judge of the show has the final decision in classification of Market Pen Rabbits.

**Breed 1 - NEW ZEALAND**

Champion New Zealand-----Scholarship & Rosette  
Reserve Champion New Zealand-----Rosette

**Breed 2 - CALIFORNIAN**

Champion Californian-----Scholarship & Rosette  
Reserve Champion Californian-----Rosette

**Breed 3 - CROSSBREEDS AND OTHER PUREBREEDS** (A Crossbreed is a rabbit whose sire and dam are of different breeds)

Champion Crossbreeds and Other Purebreeds-----Scholarship & Rosette  
Reserve Champion Crossbreeds and Other Purebreeds-----Rosette  
Grand Champion-----Belt Buckle, Trophy & Banner  
(First Place Winner in Breeds 1, 2 and 3 competing)  
Reserve Grand Champion-----Trophy and Banner  
(Reserve Breed Champion from the Class that produced Grand Champion will compete with the remaining two Breed Champions)

General Rules, Regulations and Procedures on page 41 also apply.

## **SCHEDULE OF PREMIUM AWARDS**

Premium will be based on the number of pens showing in each class:

1 - 10 Entries -----To 5th Place

11 - 20 Entries----- To 10th Place

21 - 30 Entries----- To 15th Place

Over 30 Entries ----- To 20th Place

### **PLACING**

### **PREMIUM**

1 -----	\$35
2 -----	\$34
3 -----	\$33
4 -----	\$32
5 -----	\$31
6 -----	\$30
7 -----	\$29
8 -----	\$28
9 -----	\$27
10-----	\$26
11-----	\$25
12-----	\$24
13-----	\$23
14-----	\$22
15-----	\$21
16-----	\$20
17-----	\$19
18-----	\$18
19-----	\$17
20-----	\$16

## **RABBIT DIVISION SHOWMANSHIP**

### **Monday, March 11**

Only rabbit exhibitors who are exhibiting their own rabbits will be allowed to enter the Rabbit Showmanship Competition. They must register for showmanship during the sift at the Rabbit Sifting Table on Monday, March 11.

15 years old and  
over 12 to 14 years  
of age  
8 to 11 years of age  
As of day of contest

Exhibitors must report to the Rabbit Area at which time a multiple-choice exam will be given at a determined location. Test questions will be drawn from the Texas A&M Extension Service rabbit literature that is available through the County Agents and from the 2011 through 2015 edition of the American Rabbit Breeders Association Standard of Perfection (pages 4 - 15; 29 thru 57; 90 thru 91; and 182 thru 184).

### **Tuesday, March 12**

(After completion of all rabbit judging):

The top five contestants from each of the age group, scoring highest on the multiple choice exam, will compete in the showmanship finals. Each finalist will be called individually to take one of their previously shown RGVLS market rabbits, to the show table for final competition. Physical "showing" of their rabbit as well as their knowledge of rabbit husbandry will constitute 100% of the score. The decision of the judge is final.

Prizes will be awarded in each age group as follows:

1st Place ----- \$150.00 and Belt Buckle  
2nd Place ----- \$125.00 and ribbon  
3rd Place ----- \$100.00 and ribbon  
4th Place----- \$75.00 and ribbon  
5th Place----- \$50.00 and ribbon